



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
 Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation



Bryan P. Hurlburt  
 Commissioner

860-713-2501  
 CTGrown.gov

## Connecticut Food Policy Council

### MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2022

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

- Members Present:** Monica Pacheco, Dan Giacomi, Jiff Martin, Martha Page, Lynn Peccerillo-Hills  
 Patrick Doyle, Molly Devanney, Priscilla Cotto, Sue Pronovost
- Members Absent:** Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Marcia Pessolano
- DoAg staff:** Erin Windham, Cyrena Thibodeau, Lindsay Raymond
- Guests:** Gary Wallace, Bill Logue, Jenna Nicol, Peggy Zamore, Shana Brierly, Marilyn Lonczak, Tida Infahsaeng

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Monica Pacheco.
2. **Review and approval of meeting minutes from March 10, 2022**
  - A. Change “bug” to “big” in CSDE updates  
 Motion to approve from Martha, seconded by Monica. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. **Public Comment-** No Public Comments
4. **Old Business**
  - A. **CT Food System Alliance/Hartford Food System-Update, Meg Hourigan**  
**Martha Page reporting out for CFSA in Meg’s place**  
 Hartford food policy commission has finalized its annual report- notably trying to push through an ordinance change that would increase the size of the commission and would require it to be predominantly residents. Secondly, trying to convince the city that it’s in their best interest to set up a concierge service for food businesses. Thinking that if we’re successful, this could be a good model.  
 -Farmers market meeting on May 24 and one of the outputs for that convening is to develop a plan for networking and continuation  
 -Intergenerational conversations around the food system, will get out stories and also priorities of what is important to these two groups  
 -Developing an interview process for food plan stakeholders that the steering committee will conduct  
 -Wrapping up a data set collection and evaluating using the framework of the whole measure

for a healthy future framework

NE Feeding NE, the work towards the plan feeds into the regional work. Assess what is needed to dramatically increase the amount of NE production and that is consumed in NE. Food system resilience tool being developed

## **B. FPC Grant/ Evaluation Discussion**

-Need to clarify that the paragraph following eligible applicants about culturally relevant food purchases only applies to retailers

-Jiff, would advocate that the due date be moved at least a month later. Sue agrees as does Martha. Martha pointed out that this is a difficult time for farmers, farmers markets, etc. and that this would potentially disadvantaged

Open on 9/15, close in November, contract start date at the beginning of 2023. 18 months would mean that it would end June 15, 2024 with reporting due in May 2024

-Jiff makes a motion for grant opening 9/15, with application closing November 15 and anticipated contract start time of January 15, 2023. Martha seconds. Motion passes.

-Contract workshop would be moved to beginning of October and will be recorded with a FAQ

-Erin goes through the grant guidance document

-Sue comments on infrastructure category. We use infrastructure and equipment as interchangeable (while infrastructure often gets into more permanent) which may get into issues of insurance, if they don't own property, etc. Would advocate for the language to be changed to equipment. Monica agrees.

-Jiff brings up cool bots as an example as a small infrastructure project that should be eligible under this- blurs the line between infrastructure and equipment.

-Marilyn, this is a lot of disparity in the access to breastfeeding. Could organizations apply to be a milk depot and a place to store donated milk through this? Erin replied that yes, she thought that projects such as that could be included.

-Jiff, one of the categories is community gardens and it is clear what it can include. But again, some people would consider this equipment, some infrastructure. Another example would be a group who wanted to put up a small shelter. Would want the Farm Viability and Farm Transition grant included under other grant opportunities to consider.

-Martha wants to just make sure the 4,000-character limit per question is clear for applicants

-Jiff, get rid of the language "must budget in three months to plan" and change question six wording because it is redundant

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Strategic Planning Document, *William Logue***

- Put in a plug for the Ag Mediation Program.
- Bill went through the strategic plan

Comments: Patrick: There was a noticeable lack of policy work. Jiff agreed.

Jiff thought that is sounded a lot like incorporating the work of service providers.

Sue: would like to steer away from environment and transportation because it is a difficult issue with producers right now. Would like this document to be fluid and respond to current situations

Marilyn: As I mentioned earlier, I would like to see some mention of access or support for breastfeeding as the first food and need for more equity in this space.

Bill: To Jiff's point on "service provider type work" we will make sure to clarify that we meant the council will support

Martha: Mission is clear that we are meant to develop policy. There is an opportunity for clarify

at the beginning of the document what goals are in service to the mission.

Bill: How has policy been handled before? Especially balancing that there are multiple state agencies on the council will different processes.

Jiff: I think I go back the furthest here. Back when we first started, we had external staffing and a close relationship with Hartford Food Systems and an outside consultant. Most of the meetings were structured around policy conversations; speakers would come to inform the council on efforts going on. The council would often take action by discussing and deciding on what to submit support for to the Environment Committee. Sometimes even the chair would go to testify to the Environment Committee. Maybe we can bring into this document a plan/process for how to reintroduce policy conversations into this council.

Marilyn: In looking at the section of goals; one seems more about informational and the other is projects. Maybe the informational section is more where we can think of bringing in policy. Do we want to be more focused on implementing projects or information.

Patrick: Many of us don't have the same constraints as the commissioner. In the education section, just including getting the information about what is going on at the local level and elevating it. As a start, making sure that we are educating legislators and other policy makers.

Martha: Building up the policy aspect of this helps to solve some of the problem of the amount of things that the council is "tasked" with. Turning the focus on education about what is going on, instead of duplicating and doing it ourselves.

Erin: What was past relationships with legislators? We do have a few as ex. Officio members.

Jiff: Jeff Davis who was instrumental in passing the body, was pretty involved at the beginning. There are a few legislators who would be welcome and on their own have been supportive of food and agriculture (Marilyn Moore and Jaime Foster).

Martha: Maybe having more of a roundtable with legislators to find out how we could be helpful to each other.

Erin: What do council members think of returning to monthly meetings and making them shorter? Monica agrees, Sue seconded. Martha made a motion to make meetings in September to become monthly. Patrick seconded. Motion passed.

**6. Next Steps-** Erin and Cyrena to add a rubric to the guidance. Changing infrastructure to equipment (with clarifications), clarifying the eligible applicant section. Erin, Cyrena, and Bill will continue to work on the strategic plan and have a new draft to circulate prior to the July meeting.

**7. Board Member Updates-** Marilyn, will send update over email about breastfeeding.

Erin- Bill Seedman retired and is replaced by Dan Giacomi

Marcia Pessolano was promoted to state WIC director and will be replaced by Marilyn

**8. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn by Patrick, seconded by Sue. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR 1, May 13, 2022*